

REMARKS

The present application was filed on August 7, 2000 with claims 1-15. Claims 1-15 remain pending. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding Office Action dated July 24, 2003, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; (ii) rejected claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,269,171 to Gozzo et al. (hereinafter "Gozzo"); (iii) rejected claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gozzo in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,876,735 to Martin et al. (hereinafter "Martin"); and (iv) rejected claims 4-7 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gozzo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,028,956 to Shustorovich et al. (hereinafter "Shustorovich").

In response to the Office Action claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15 have been amended.

With regard to the rejection of claims 3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 10 to more clearly recite the elements of the invention.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gozzo, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8 and 15 to more clearly set forth the invention. More specifically, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8 and 15 so that they recite that the coupling between the ABL system and the OCR system is capable of feeding results associated with the ABL system as input to the OCR system and results associated with the OCR system as input to the ABL system.

Gozzo discloses a mail sorting system in which an ABL system sends an address to a segmentation recognition system, which then sends segments to an address interpretation system. Gozzo does not disclose a system that is capable of allowing an OCR system to provide input to an ABL system. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is therefore respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gozzo in view of Martin, Applicants assert that such claims are patentable for at least the reasons that independent claims 1 and 8, from which claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 directly depend, are patentable. The patentability of claims 1 and 8 is addressed above. The combination of Gozzo

and Martin fails to address a system that allows results of an OCR system to be fed as input to an ABL system.

Further, claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are patentable in their own right. Martin discloses a character recognition system in which characters rejected from a first character reading system may be analyzed in a second character reading system. The present invention utilizes a single OCR system and claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 recite the reuse of the an ABL system when results are input into the ABL system from the OCR system. The combination of Gozzo and Martin fails to disclose the reuse of an ABL system. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claims 4-7 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gozzo in view of Shustorovich, Applicants assert that such claims are patentable for at least the reasons that independent claims 1 and 8, from which claims 4-7 and 11-14 depend, are patentable. The patentability of claims 1 and 8 is described above. Shustorovich discloses an object location and span determination in an image, but fails to disclose an ABL system or an OCR system, and thus, also fails to disclose the novel coupling of an ABL system and an OCR system. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 4-7 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §112, §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: October 24, 2003

Robert W. Griffith
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 48,956
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-4547